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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 017344/0290

Applicant: Kunihiko WAKABAYASHI

Title: VOICE MAIL APPARATUS AND METHOD OF PROCESSING
VOICE MAIL

Serial No.: 09/233,475

Filed: January 20, 1999

Examiner: Chow, Ming

Art Unit: 2645

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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APR 02 2003

Sir:

Technology Center 2600

In reply to the Office Action mailed January 16, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1), please substitute for presently pending claims 1, 2, 11 and 12, the following rewritten versions of the same claims, as amended. The changes are shown in the attached "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Also, please add new claims 17-24 as provided below.

Furthermore, please cancel claims 3-10 and 13-16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Three Times Amended) A voice mail apparatus comprising:
a memory to store received digitized voice in a voice mail sent from a sender, and wherein the memory further stores at least one voice reply message of a recipient of the voice mail;
an identifier to identify a sender number attached to the voice mail that contains the digitized voice, the sender number corresponding to the sender that has sent the digitized voice;
an e-mail transmitter to send an e-mail from the recipient to the sender;
a table that provides a correspondence between a plurality of e-mail addresses and a plurality of sender numbers, respectively; and
a control unit configured to control operation of the voice mail apparatus, wherein the digitized voice is stored at a particular memory address that is assigned to the sender within the memory, based on the identification of the sender number as performed by the identifier,
wherein the table is accessed to allow a recipient of the digitized voice to send an e-mail response to the corresponding e-mail address of the sender, wherein the control unit obtains the at least one voice response message of the recipient from the memory, attaches the at least one voice response message to an e-mail to be sent to the corresponding e-mail address of the sender, and provides the e-mail to the e-mail transmitter to be output to the sender, and
wherein the e-mail is capable of being opened by the sender so that the sender can review the at least one voice response message of the recipient, by the sender opening the e-mail attachment and reviewing the at least one voice response message.

2. (Three Times Amended) A voice mail apparatus comprising:
a memory to store received digitized voice in a voice mail sent from a sender, and wherein the memory further stores at least one voice reply message of a recipient of the voice mail;

an identifier to identify a proper sender number attached to the voice mail that contains the digitized voice, the sender number corresponding to the sender that has sent the digitized voice;

an e-mail transmitter to send an e-mail from the recipient to the sender;

a table that provides a correspondence between a plurality of e-mail addresses and a plurality of proper sender numbers, respectively; and

a control unit configured to control operation of the voice mail apparatus,

wherein the digitized voice is stored at a particular memory address that is assigned to the sender within the memory, based on the identification of the sender number as performed by the identifier,

wherein the table is accessed to allow a recipient of the digitized voice to send an e-mail response to the corresponding e-mail address of the sender,

wherein the control unit obtains the at least one voice response message of the recipient from the memory, attaches the at least one voice response message to an e-mail to be sent to the corresponding e-mail address of the sender, and provides the e-mail to the e-mail transmitter to be output to the sender, and

wherein the e-mail is capable of being opened by the sender so that the sender can review the at least one voice response message of the recipient, by the sender opening the e-mail attachment and reviewing the at least one voice response message.

11. (Three Times Amended) A method of processing voice mail comprising the steps of:

storing in a memory, at least one voice reply message from a recipient;

storing, in the memory, a digitized voice sent from a sender to the recipient;

identifying the sender of the digitized voice upon obtaining the digitized voice from the memory, the identifying being performed based on a sender number corresponding to the sender that is attached to the digitized voice;

storing, based on the sender number, the digital voice at a particular memory address within the memory, the particular memory address being assigned to the sender;